

Shovel Ready

Indiana's Pilot Shovel Ready Program for Economic Development Sites

The pilot Shovel Ready program certifies Indiana sites as ready for development. Shovel Ready is designed to help communities and companies identify sites that can be rapidly developed. Sites are pre-permitted to allow quick investment and expansion plans, reducing the normal site permitting time table. State and local partners invest time and money up-front, saving companies time in the decision-making process.

Benefits

The Pilot Shovel Ready Program lowers the cost of site development, improves efficiency of state permitting and enhances the marketability of the site. Because site information is available before development, potential risks of investing and improving new land are reduced for businesses.

A maximum \$10,000 matching grant is available for eligible expenses to certified sites.

How It Works

The Indiana Finance Authority will lead the program administration of Shovel Ready and will utilize the FASTeam to deliver the fast track permitting at the State level.

The State Review Team, known as the FASTeam (Fast Access Site Team) is composed of State employees from different agencies that have roles in the necessary permitting requirements. The FASTeam is composed of representatives from the Indiana Finance Authority, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Governor's Office, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Indiana State Department of Homeland Security.

The FASTeam assisted the Indiana Finance Authority in the Pilot Shovel Ready design and the development of the application. The FASTeam also approved the scoring system and the screening tools.

Goals

- Help local communities prepare sites for development by pre-permitting a site as much as possible
- Certify sites to help companies more easily navigate the selection and permitting process
- Generate a list of remaining permits necessary for a specific site
- Help fast-track the remaining state, federal and local business/industry specific permits

Minimum Standards for Certification

- Executive level community support (Mayor, County Commissioner, Town Council President) demonstrating a local commitment to expedite, when possible, local permitting
- Ownership of property clearly identified; property should be owned or optioned by local economic development organization, local unit of government, developer, end user or utility
- Sufficient infrastructure in place
- Identify water bodies and receiving streams at the site, includes a Waters of the State determination
- Topography maps associated with site are supplied
- Environmental assessment of property complete through appropriate Phase I, and if indicated, a Phase II evaluation
- Document commitments from local government to "fast track" remaining permits

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